

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 are pending and stand ready for further action on the merits. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity. No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Applicants comments regarding the patentability of the present invention as appearing in the January 20, 2004 Reply are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and comments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. A notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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